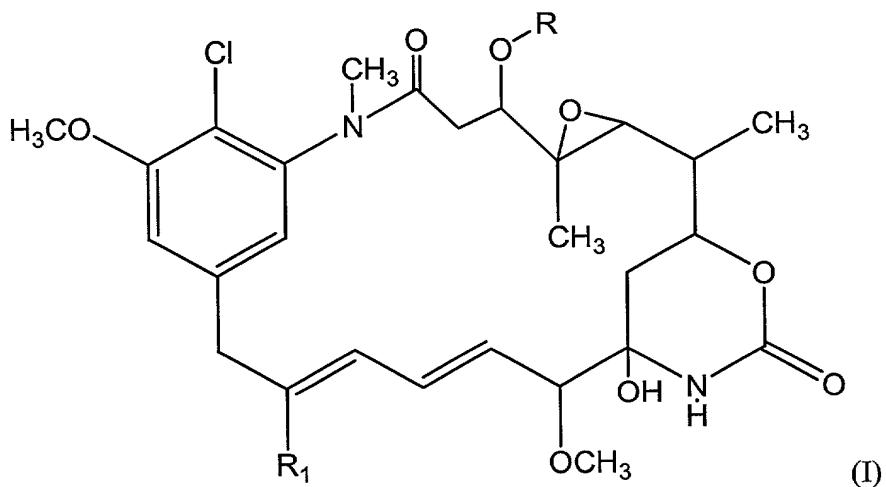


Claim 1. A bacterium having the biological characteristics of the bacterium deposited with the ATCC on December 11, 2001, under the accession number PTA-3921.

Claim 2. A method for producing an ansamitocin, which comprises cultivating the bacterium of claim 1 in a culture medium comprising a suitable carbon source.

5       Claim 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said ansamitocin is one or more ansamitocins of formula (I) or isomers thereof:



wherein R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, acetyl, propionyl, isobutyryl, butyryl, and isovaleryl, and R<sub>1</sub> is selected from the group consisting of methyl, 10 and hydroxymethyl.

Claim 4. The method of claim 3 wherein said ansamitocin is predominantly ansamitocin P-3 and said carbon source comprises one or more carbon sources selected from the group consisting of valine, isobutyric acid, isobutyl alcohol, and isobutylaldehyde.